(i) to seek appropriate legal remedies;

(ii) to enact an appropriate legislation by building consensus; and (iii) to explore the executive option of disinvesting the marketing arm of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

Option (iii) is still under preliminary stage of consideration and Government is yet to reach any final decision with regard to this option or its modalities.

Overseas Oil Projects

80. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to rtfer to the reply to the Unstarred Question 76 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th February, 2003 and state whether any progress has been made in offshore exploration blocks in Myanmar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): After February 2003, seismic data were acquired and interpreted and the location of the first exploratory well identified. Drilling of this well has commenced in mid-November 2003.

Exploration of Oil and Gas

†81. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that petroleum/natural gas reserves have been found at several places recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of the work related to extraction of the oil from these sources and refining thereof being given to foreign based companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) During the year 2002-03, National Oil Companies, *viz.,* Oil and Natural Gas. Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and private/Joint Venture Companies have made 21 discoveries of small, medium and big size in Barmer Sanchor, Cambay, Jaisalmer, Krishna-Godavari Offshore, Mumbai Offshore and Upper Assam basins.

(c) No, Sir.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.